

EXHIBIT B**PATENT APPLICATION****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of Hidenori USUDA, et al. Docket No. Q62603
Appln. No. 09/756,881 Group Art Unit 2853
Confirmation No. 6235 Examiner Lam S. NGUYEN
Filed January 10, 2001

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

JAN 08 2004

OFFICIAL

For: RECORDING APPARATUS AND DATA CONTROL METHOD THEREIN

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

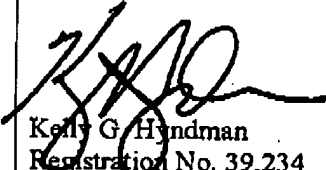
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examining the above-identified application, please amend the application as indicated below.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence of 3 pages, including this page, is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner Lam S. NGUYEN at the Patent and Trademark Office Fax No. (703) 746-8433 on December 22, 2003.


Kelly G. Hyndman
Registration No. 39,234

Please call attention to problems with this transmission by return fax (202-293-7860) or telephone (202-293-7060). Thank you. The information contained in this communication is confidential, may be attorney-client privileged, and is intended only for the use of the addressee. Unauthorized use, disclosure or copying is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify us.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
SERIAL NO. 09/756,881
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q62603

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus comprising:
dot formation means being divided into a plurality of groups, each of the groups for forming a dot;
drive means for driving the respective groups in the dot formation means in accordance with record data;
fixing signal output means for outputting a fixing signal, to the drive means, instead of the record data, wherein the fixing signal selects at least one group in the dot formation means so that the selected group is not used for forming the dot in accordance with the record data; and
fixing means for setting the selected group so as not to form the dot in response to the fixing signal and
control means for transferring the record data to the group except for the group selected by the fixing signal.
2. (Currently Amended) The recording apparatus as set forth in claim 1, ~~further comprising control means for transferring the record data to the group except for the group selected by the fixing signal,~~ wherein:
the dot formation means is divided into the plurality of groups in accordance with a predetermined dot formation condition assigned thereto, the dot formation condition being related to monochrome recording or color recording;
the fixing signal selects the group in the dot forming means in accordance with the monochrome recording or the color recording; and
the control means expands record information into an image in storage means for transferring the record data from the storage means to the drive means.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
SERIAL NO. 09/756,881
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q62603

3. (Previously presented) The recording apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein the storage means is provided with storage regions enough for a maximum number of groups of the dot formation means which are used at the same time; and wherein the control means reserves storage regions in the storage means enough for groups used on a present recording.
4. (Previously presented) The recording apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein the storage means is provided with storage regions only enough for a maximum number of groups of the dot formation means which are used at the same time.
5. (Canceled).
6. (Previously presented) The recording apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein when an excess storage region occurs in the storage means in accordance with unnecessary of the record data transmission due to the fixing signal output, the control means utilizes the excess storage region for a serial transmission of the record data.
7. (Previously presented) The recording apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein when an excess storage region occurs in the storage means in accordance with unnecessary of the record data transmission due to the fixing signal output, the control means utilizes the excess storage region for another data processing.
8. (Previously presented) The recording apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein the divided groups of the dot formation means includes a color group for forming a plurality colors of dots, a first black group for forming a black dot on the monochrome recording and a second black group for forming a black dot on the monochrome recording and the color recording; and wherein the fixing signal output means outputs the fixing signal to the first black group on the color recording, and outputs the fixing signal to the color group on the monochrome recording.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
SERIAL NO. 09/756,881
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q62603

9. (Canceled).
10. (Previously presented) The recording apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein a drive signal is provided with a shift register for parallel-converting the record data which is serial-transmitted; and wherein the fixing means is provided on a signal transmission path arranged between the shift register and the dot formation means.
11. (Previously presented) The recording apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein a drive signal is provided with a shift register for parallel-converting the record data which is serial-transmitted; and wherein the fixing means keeps data determined by the fixing signal in the shift register.
12. (Previously presented) A method of controlling data, comprising the steps of:
providing a recording apparatus comprising:
dot formation means being divided into a plurality of groups, each of the groups for forming a dot;
drive means for driving the respective groups in the dot formation means in accordance with record data; and
control means for transferring the record data to the group in the dot formation means;
outputting a fixing signal to the drive means, instead of the record data, the fixing signal selecting at least one group in the dot formation means which is not used for forming the dot in accordance with the record data;
fixing the selected group so as not to form the dot; and
transferring the record data to the group except for the group selected by the fixing signal.

13. (Canceled).

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
SERIAL NO. 09/756,881
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q62603

14. (Previously presented) The data controlling method as set forth in claim 12, further comprising the step of reserving a storage region in a storage means associated only with the group to which the fixing signal is transmitted.
15. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus comprising:
dot formation means being divided into a plurality of groups, each of the groups for forming a dot in accordance with a predetermined dot formation condition;
drive means including a mode fixing circuit, for driving the respective groups in the dot formation means in accordance with record data;
storage means including storage regions, for storing only the groups used in the dot formation;
control means for expanding record information into an image in the storage means, for transferring record data from the storage means to the drive means and for reserving storage regions in the storage means only for groups used on a present recording; and
fixing signal output means for outputting a fixing signal, the fixing signal determining at least one group in the dot formation means which is not used for forming the dot in accordance with the dot formation condition in the mode fixing circuit, and for transmitting the fixing signal directly to the drive means instead of the record data;
wherein the control means transfers the record data to the group except for the group selected by the fixing signal.
16. (Previously presented) The recording apparatus as set forth in claim 15, further comprising mode fixing means for fixing the dot formation condition of the group in the dot formation means.
17. (Previously presented) The recording apparatus as set forth in claim 15, wherein:
the dot formation condition is related to monochrome recording or color recording;
the divided groups of the dot formation means further comprise a color group for forming a plurality colors of dots, a first black group for forming a black dot during monochrome

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
SERIAL NO. 09/756,881
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q62603

recording and a second black group for forming a black dot during the monochrome recording and the color recording; and
the fixing signal output means outputs the mode fixing signal to the first black group during the color recording, and outputs the mode fixing signal to the color group during the monochrome recording.

18. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus comprising:

dot formation means being divided into a plurality of groups for forming a dot in accordance with a predetermined dot formation condition related to monochrome or color recording;
driving means for driving the respective groups in the dot formation means and for determining the formation of the dot by inputting into the dot formation condition a mode fixing signal; and

control means for expanding image in storage means corresponding to the data used for dot formation and for transferring data from storage to drive means, control means for transferring the data to the groups except for the group selected by the fixing signal;

wherein the divided groups of the dot formation means further comprise:

a color group for forming a plurality colors of dots only during the color recording,
a first black group for forming a black dot only during monochrome recording, and
a second black group for forming a black dot during the monochrome recording and during the color recording.

19. (Previously presented) The recording apparatus as set forth in claim 18, wherein the mode fixing signal is transmitted to the first black group during the color recording, and the mode fixing signal is transmitted to the color group during the monochrome recording.

20. (Previously presented) The recording apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the divided groups of the dot formation means further comprise a color group for forming a plurality colors of dots, a first black group for forming a black dot during monochrome recording and a

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
SERIAL NO. 09/756,881
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q62603

second black group for forming a black dot during the monochrome recording and the color recording; and wherein the fixing signal output means outputs the mode fixing signal to the first black group during the color recording, and outputs the mode fixing signal to the color group during the monochrome recording.

21. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus, comprising:

dot formation means being divided into a plurality of groups, each of the groups for forming a dot;

drive means for driving the respective groups in the dot formation means in accordance with record data;

fixing signal output means for outputting a fixing signal to the drive means, instead of the record data, and the fixing signal selecting all the groups in the dot formation means in accordance with the record data so that the respective groups form the dot; and

fixing means for fixing all the groups so as to form the dot; and

control means for transferring the record data to the groups except for the groups selected by the fixing signal.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling data, comprising:

providing a recording apparatus comprising:

dot formation means divided into a plurality of groups, each group being for forming a dot,

drive means for driving the respective groups in the dot formation means in accordance with record data, and

control means for transferring the record data to the groups in the dot formation means;

outputting a fixing signal to the drive means, instead of the record data, the fixing signal selecting all the groups in the dot formation means in accordance with the record data; and

fixing all the groups so as to form the dot; and

transferring the record data to the groups except for the groups selected by the fixing signal.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
SERIAL NO. 09/756,881
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q62603

23. (Currently Amended) A recording apparatus, comprising:
- a dot formation unit, having a plurality of dot forming groups, each of the dot forming groups having a dot-forming capability;
 - a drive unit, driving the respective dot forming groups in the dot formation unit so as to form the dot in accordance with record data;
 - a fixing signal generator, outputting a fixing signal to the drive unit, instead of the record data, wherein the fixing signal select at least one dot forming group in the dot formation unit; and
 - a setting unit, setting the selected dot forming group so as not to form the dot, in accordance with the fixing signal; and
- control means for transferring the record data to the groups except for the group selected by the fixing signal.
24. (Canceled).
25. (Previously Presented) The recording apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein:
- the drive means includes a plurality of switching members corresponding to the groups in the dot forming means; and
 - the switching members corresponding to the selected group are turned off so that a drive signal supplied to the drive means is shut off.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
SERIAL NO. 09/756,881
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q62603

REMARKS

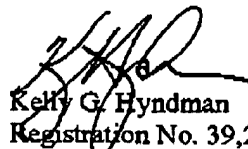
Applicant herein amends claims 1, 2, 15, 18, and 21-23, and cancels claim 24 without prejudice or disclaimer. In particular, the requirement previously in claim 2 for control means for transferring the record data to the group except for the group selected by the fixing signal has been canceled from claim 2 and has been added to independent claims 1, 15, 18, and 21-23. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims and independent claim 12, which already included such a requirement, are thus allowable over the prior art for at least the reasons already made of record in the Amendment previously filed on October 17, 2003.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860


Kelly G. Hyndman
Registration No. 39,234

Date: December 22, 2003